

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 10 - October, 2016  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star*



From the Editors: Thanks for all your support. Steve & Walt

## November 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder."

The quiz will cover this tale.

We will have an overview of our Society's webpage.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

## October 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

There were 10 attendees on hand. A touching toast and tribute was offered up by Marland Henderson for Jack Pugh, who passed away in September, and was one of our most beloved members (see page 2).

Liese Sherwood-Fabre won the Quiz, based on "The Empty House", and was awarded a **Baker Street Game** and the book, **Baker Street Irregular**, by Jon Lellenberg.

Announcements were made, including the symposium being held in November (see page 4). Diane Tran's father has been in the hospital, so please keep Diane and her father in your thoughts.

Karen and Charles Olson are planning a Victorian Christmas Party (see page 5).

We will continue our Christmas card exchange again this year (see page 6)

Liese Sherwood-Fabre noted Mocha Memoirs Press is sponsoring a short story contest with Sherlock Holmes as the main character for Curious Incidents: More Improbable Adventures. The deadline for submissions is October 14, 2016. For more information, visit the 'About' section at <http://mochamemoirspress.com>.

We conducted a practice run for the mystery game to be presented at the symposium. Thanks so much to Brenda Hutchison for developing the mystery and conducting it at the symposium.

The closing reading was an excerpt "The Elite Devotee," from the March, 1988, **Baker Street Journal** (see page 3).

The full minutes may be viewed at our webpage: [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for developing the minutes this month.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

## Who dunnit:



Third Mate  
Helmsman  
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries  
Historian  
Webmaster

Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison

Steve Mason  
Walter Pieper  
Don Hobbs, BSI  
Jim Webb

Pam Mason  
Rusty Mason

[mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov)  
[waltpieper@att.net](mailto:waltpieper@att.net)  
[221b@verizon.net](mailto:221b@verizon.net)  
[jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com)

[myrkrid08@yahoo.com](mailto:myrkrid08@yahoo.com)

# JACK PUGH: AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

Marland Henderson

I met Jack in the 1990's, while we were in law school. We did not see much of each other until later when we were studying for the State Bar Exam (the second time for both of us). Still there wasn't much time for socializing and it was only when we found we lived in the same general neighborhood we began to occasionally share rides. No doubt, most of you have read his obituary so you are likely more familiar with his survivors than I.

Jack had distinguishing characteristics. Whenever he joined a group or organization, he always volunteered for a 'working' role in whatever



was before him. He felt compelled to take a contributing leadership role in the group, whether it was a church, Kiwanis Club, Diogenes Club or one of the many organizations he joined over the time that I was privileged to know him.

One of Jack's most illustrative qualities was he was always punctual. We joined the Diogenes Club at the same time several years ago. Jack always drove while I dug through hurried notes and we discussed the Holmes story assigned that Sunday. When he drove, he always, without fail, pulled up at my door at 12:35PM sharp for the monthly meeting. At 12:35PM the front of his truck eased to a stop right at the end of my sidewalk.

He never honked, made any kind of noise or signal. I, or anyone, who was riding with him was expected to promptly step into his vehicle at that moment. In later years, when his health began to fail and I drove most of the time, he was always, without fail, ready at 12:35PM. No matter how

early I arrived at his door, he was always ready (occasionally sans suspenders).

As Jack was a retired Navy Commander, he always had some 'Sea Stories' to share. One of those stories explained how the U.S. Navy seldom lost any pilots when they accidentally crashed into the water during air operations training exercises.

All of the Destroyers, and Destroyer Escorts (DDs & DEs or 'Tin Cans') swarmed ahead at full steam to pull the crashed pilot out of the water – everybody wanted to rescue the downed pilot.



This was not just dedication for a fellow sailor. It seems that the Carrier provided several gallons of ice cream for the crew of the Tin Can that pulled the pilot out of the drink and returned him safely to the Flat-top.

Also, if you would listen, 'the old Commander' would patiently explain how the trick to keeping a naval vessel sailing evenly in the water, without listing to port or starboard, was to keep the Water Tender and the Oil King chiefs talking to each other so they would continually keep the proper ballast between fuel and water. These are just two of the many deep water tales Jack was only too happy to share with anyone who would listen, until of course the subject of Sherlock Holmes came up.

Jack Pugh lived a full and successful life. He was a good and decent man, who loved his family very much. I feel I can safely say that we all were fortunate to have known him. He will be missed.

Jack, we wish you Fair winds and Following seas.

IN all of my writing and speaking about the cult of Sherlock Holmes, I have scrupulously avoided using the word “fan” and have employed “devotee” instead. Though there is little practical difference in these words’ definitions, there is, I think, a substantial difference in what they connote.

“Fan,” in fact, is an informal word (derived from “fanatic,” as it happens, not that it matters); “devotee” is a word unto itself and is therefore by its very nature more formal. I like to think of Sherlockians — we ought to think of Sherlockians — as devotees, not fans.

“Devotee” suggests the Old World gentlemanly and ladylike milieu in which Sherlock Holmes lived and, later, from which the Baker Street Irregulars were born.

“Fan” (regardless of when or by whom the word was early used) suggests the more casual, less proprietous ambiance associated with life in the mid to-late twentieth century.

The true Sherlockian devotee presents him- or herself as a

gentleman or a lady when representing Sherlockiana publicly and, one hopes, at all other moments as well. The fan feels no such compulsion.

The devotee is acutely aware of social etiquette; often, too often, the fan has only the vaguest awareness that there are such



injunctions. The devotee, mindful of the earlier times that saw the genesis of Sherlock Holmes and of the Irregulars, turns out in a suit or a jacket and tie (depending upon the occasion)— or in commensurate attire if a lady; the fan contents himself with his blue jeans and slogan tee-shirt.

The devotee is a person of language, of words; the fan is more commonly a person of half-ideas, half-expressed. The devotee is comfortable in genteel, dignified

Sherlockian surroundings; the fan (dare we suggest this?) is at home at a science-fiction convention.

Do Sherlockians (and should they) struggle uphill against the prevailing social tide of public behavior today? Yes, they do. And, yes, they should. For the Sherlockian is devoted to the world where it is always 1895 and always 1934.



As Basil Rathbone is quoted in this issue as having observed about early meetings of the BSI, such convocations were affairs of “protocol” at which members were on “their best behaviour.” That rather expresses it.

The Baker Street Journal continues to be the leading Sherlockian publication since its founding in 1946 by Edgar W. Smith. With both serious scholarship and articles that “play the game,” the Journal is essential reading for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a world where it is always 1895.

Got to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/subscriptions.html> for subscription information.



# THE WOMEN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

**Listen to Sherlock Holmes' enthusiasts analyze the women of Sherlock Holmes**

**Monday, November 7 6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**Allen Public Library - Civic Auditorium**  
**Address: 300 N. Allen Drive, Allen, TX 75013**

- *The Villainesses of Sherlock Holmes*
- *The Female Versions of Sherlock Holmes*
- *The Modern Irene Adlers - Do They Live up to the Original?*
- *How did Holmes Really Feel about Women?*
- *Mystery Contest: The Hound of Pinchin Lane*

**There will be door prizes as well as prizes for the mystery contest**



300 North Allen Drive | Allen, Texas 75013 | 214.509.4911

# WE'RE HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY !!

Charles and Karen Olson have graciously offered to host a Christmas party for all of our Crew members...

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

TIME: 2:00 – 5:00 PM

ADDRESS: 1005 SUNDOWN CIRCLE, MCKINNEY, TX in a housing addition called Sunset Acres, off HWY 380, just east of McKinney

PHONE: if you need further directions, get lost, or just want to say hi to Karen or Charles... (940) 337-4984, (940) 337-4159, (214) 491-1847.



***Charles and Karen have a lovely house, and you will enjoy seeing their Sherlockian items, as well as wonderful items from all over the world.***

There will be Victorian snacks and hors d'oeuvres... but feel free to bring your own favorite Victorian delicacy or libation to assist Karen.

***We will also have a Christmas present exchange, so we are asking all attendees to bring a small Sherlockian/Victorian gift... \$10 maximum, if possible...***

If you are stumped for a potential present, go to Etsy (<https://www.etsy.com/>) and search on Sherlock Holmes... they have thousands of potential gifts for an exchange (or for yourself) at reasonable prices...

Please RSVP to Karen Olson if you are attending, so she can plan for the number of attendees...

[karen.olson2500@gmail.com](mailto:karen.olson2500@gmail.com)

We hope to see you there...

*Steve, Karen, Charles, Walter*

# CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE



Again for 2016, we are continuing the fine tradition to provide addresses for those members who would like to exchange Christmas cards (Sherlockian / Victorian in theme, hopefully)...

If you would like to be on the Crew of the Barque Lone Star Christmas Card list, please send an email to Cindy Brown, who has graciously agreed to compile the list, with your address...

If you are looking for a wonderful printed Christmas card, go to:

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/product/christmas-card-2016/>

## Product Description

“Let’s all go down the Strand”

The first issue of The Strand Magazine was published 125 years ago in January 1891, making 2016 the Quasquicentenary of the Magazine. It is fitting that our Christmas Card for 2016 should feature a cover from a Christmas edition of the Magazine.

Without The Strand Magazine, Sherlock Holmes might now be no more than a footnote in the history of popular fiction. In fact the association between Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and The Strand began in the magazine’s first year of publication, and flourished for decades.

That’s a cause for celebration, wouldn’t you say?

The card will be produced in full colour and will be available in packs of ten. The cost includes postage and packing.

Only those members who provide their addresses will receive a copy of the final list. Essentially, this is where members share cards with each other.

Please send your address to:  
epacpa@gmail.com

Please respond to Cindy no later than November 01 so she can compile the list to get out to those who want to participate in time for Christmas delivery...



# 17 STEPS TO THE EMPTY HOUSE

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...

## LIFE WITHOUT PROFESSOR MORIARTY

"The community is certainly the gainer, and no one the loser, save the poor out-of-work specialist, whose occupation has gone. With that man in the field, one's morning paper presented infinite possibilities. Often it was only the smallest trace, Watson, the faintest indication, and yet it was enough to tell me that the great malignant brain was there, as the gentlest tremors of the edges of the web remind one of the foul spider which lurks in the centre. Petty thefts, wanton assaults, purposeless outrage--to the man who held the clue all could be worked into one connected whole."



With Moriarty gone, London crime is pretty much looking like

an episode of "COPS" to Holmes. He sounds like Moriarty was everywhere in the good old days, but in Watson's chronicles we laymen see him nowhere (except for the good people of Granada Television, who wisely spotted his hand in "Red-Headed League"). Of the 24 cases that occurred before "The Final Problem," how many might have looked Moriarty-related to the mind of the criminal specialist?

(And is Holmes's "out-of-work" comment one more complaint about the popularity of

Watson's writings, and how "Final Problem" has the world certain Holmes is dead despite anything the papers may be reporting?)

\*\*\*\*\*

## FIRST A BROTHER, NOW A COUSIN . . .

Watson writes: "A young doctor, named Verner, had purchased my small Kensington practice, and given with astonishingly little demur the highest price I ventured to ask--an incident which only explained itself some years later, when I found Verner was a distant relation of Holmes, and it was my friend who had really found the money."

One wonders, after "The Resident Patient," if Sherlock Holmes saw his young cousin as an investment opportunity. Would Holmes have gone with a deal like Blessington did in that tale (sans the "resident" part), would he have made it a loan to his kinsman, or was an outright gift more the detective's style?

\*\*\*\*\*

## WATSON'S NEW ROLE ... OR WAS IT?

"Our months of partnership had not been so uneventful as he had stated, for I find, on looking over my notes, that this period includes the case of the papers of ex-President Murillo, and also the shocking affair of the Dutch steamship Friesland, which so nearly cost us both our lives. His



cold and proud nature was always averse, however, from anything in the shape of public applause, and he bound me in the most stringent terms to say no further word of himself, his methods, or his successes--a prohibition which, as I have explained, has only now been removed."

Consider this for a moment: Holmes took Watson back on as a partner and room-mate under the condition Watson would write and publish no more of his cases. Sure, Holmes would eventually release Watson from it, but was that release spoken of at the time of the prohibition? Why did Holmes shut down Watson's literary career at it's most successful point?

Wasn't the damage already done? Wouldn't the public find out

Holmes was still alive through the newspapers after a case or two?

Is it conceivable that Holmes took Watson back as a partner against crime and that alone? For the first time, Watson is with Holmes as a career choice, having given up his practice -- was this the start of the detective "agency" that Holmes refers to later?

\*\*\*\*\*

## WATSON SEEMS TO BE CATCHING ON

Holmes observes, of John Hector McFarlane: "Beyond the obvious facts that you are a



bachelor, a solicitor, a Freemason, and an asthmatic, I know nothing whatever about you."

Watson then writes: "Familiar as I was with my friend's methods, it was not difficult for me to follow his deductions, and to observe the untidiness of attire, the sheaf of legal papers, the watch-charm, and the breathing which had prompted them."

Is Watson actually showing improvement in his observation/deduction skills? Had this improvement come as the result of studies he undertook after Holmes's "death"? Is he more of a fitting partner for Holmes now than he was in his bachelor days years before?

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE UPCOMING ARREST OF JOHN HECTOR MCFARLANE

Holmes is certainly pleased to hear McFarlane may be pursued by the police: ""Arrest you!" he remarks. "This is really most grati--most interesting."

Is it the pressure of having to save an innocent man that excites Holmes about this case? Or is it the chance to compete with Scotland Yard again? Could there have been yet another reason for Holmes's excitement over that one bit of information?

\*\*\*\*\*

### STICKING WITH YOUR STICK

J.H.M. tells, "I could not find my stick, and he said, 'Never mind, my boy, I shall see a good deal of you now, I hope, and I will keep your stick until you come back to claim it.'"

Were walking sticks more of an affectation in Victorian times



than today? Or did John Hector McFarlane have a bum leg we're not told of?

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE LAST MINUTE PART OF THE PLOT

"It is curious--is it not?--that a man should draw up so important a document in so haphazard a fashion. It suggests that he did not think it was going to be of much practical importance."



As we know by the tale's end, the will of Jonas Oldacre did have a certain amount of importance to Oldacre's plans. Why wouldn't a man who spent so much time on the other construction that was vital to his plot not spend a little time constructing a will prior to the train ride? What was the hurry?

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANOTHER UNTOLD HOLMES LIST

"Give me another theory that would fit the facts," Lestrade tells Holmes.

"I could very easily give you half a dozen," Holmes replies. He then proceeds to give Lestrade a free sample of one. Anyone care to enumerate another five that Holmes might have been thinking of?

\*\*\*\*\*

### WHAT'S IN THAT BOY'S HEAD?

Inspector Lestrade had definitely got some bulldog-like qualities. Once he's decided McFarlane is the culprit, that's that. He notices Holmes giving him a hint like he always does, and even looks at Holmes curiously about it. Why doesn't he give Holmes's clue another thought? Did he think Holmes was going to

Blackheath to look for his theoretical tramp?

\*\*\*\*\*

### AND WHILE WE'RE ON IT, WHAT'S HOLMES THINKING?

Sherlock Holmes's attitude toward Watson's published works has some very curious manifestations. While in "Empty House" last week, we saw Watson returning to partnership with Holmes with a ban on publishing any more stories, months later, we have Holmes saying, "I fear that the Norwood Disappearance Case will not figure in that chronicle of our successes which I foresee that a patient public will sooner or later have to endure."

Was Holmes's irritation with Watson about the publication of Adventures and Memoirs a

continuing pet peeve in the friendship? While many Watsonians have complained of Holmes's criticism of

Watson's writing as unfair or cruel, might Holmes have actually had a grievance over Watson's deal with Strand Magazine after the detective's "death"?

Were the fans driving Holmes nuts, causing him to shoot the occasional line at his friend like, "Perhaps I shall get the credit also at some distant day, when I permit my zealous historian to lay out his foolscap once more--eh, Watson?"

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE MURDERER IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

"That is a dangerous argument, my dear Watson. You remember that terrible murderer, Bert Stevens, who wanted us to get him off in '87? Was there ever



a more mild-mannered, Sunday-school young man?"

While one wonders how long

Holmes handled Bert Stevens's case before he realized the truth and how many people Bert killed to make him so terrible (or was it

his method?), there are more important questions here: When did Sunday school get its start, apart from standard church services? And in Victorian London, was it something peculiar to a certain faith or branch of a faith?

\*\*\*\*\*

### TEAMING UP ON HOLMES

Whenever three friends spend much time together, two of them are always liable to gang up on the third for the occasional ribbing. And in this tale we see a hint of something that may have happened more often than we are shown.

Lestrade is quite amused by Holmes's frustration over this case, laughing and commenting to Holmes, "You don't like being beaten any more than the rest of us do. A man can't expect always to have it his own way, can he, Dr. Watson?" Given Holmes's cool demeanor and Watson's accessibility, might Lestrade have been closer to Watson than Holmes as time went on?

\*\*\*\*\*

### LESTRADE AND FINGERPRINT TECHNOLOGY

"You are aware that no two thumb-marks are alike?" Lestrade asks.



"I have heard something of the kind," Holmes replies.

We know Holmes is up on every advance in criminological science, but what does this exchange tell us about Lestrade? In 1894, was he ahead or behind the rest of his colleagues at Scotland Yard? Had Lestrade actually learned of fingerprinting from Holmes and was needing him just a bit more?

\*\*\*\*\*

### UM, WHAT DOES "OUTWARDLY" MEAN?

"Holmes was outwardly calm, but his whole body gave a wriggle of suppressed excitement as he spoke."

Jeremy Brett's critics might have given him grief for a few of his more outlandish physical expressions in playing Sherlock Holmes, but as we see here, Holmes was not above a crazy physical expression or too of his own. But how did Holmes appear calm with his whole body wriggling? If he was gleeful enough to wriggle, wouldn't he also smile just a little bit? (In fact, a non-smiling wriggling man would look a little creepy, wouldn't he?)

\*\*\*\*\*

### NO CRIME SCENE TAPE IN THOSE DAYS

"Where was the night constable?"

"He remained on guard in the bedroom where the crime was committed, so as to see that nothing was touched."

Holmes has had enough time to go over the entire house and yard with a fine toothed comb. Wouldn't Scotland Yard have been

finished with the scene as well? With the limited forensics of the Victorian era, what more could they have hoped to gain from the guarded crime scene? What damage could an intruder have done to their case?

\*\*\*\*\*

### HOLMES LIKES THE BIG FELLOWS

Holmes has a simple question for Lestrade about his three men: "May I ask if they are all large, able-bodied men with powerful voices?"

And Lestrade replies: "I have no doubt they are, though I fail to see what their voices have to do with it."

Personally, I fail to see what their large, able bodies have to do with it. Was Holmes afraid that he, Watson and Lestrade were going to be unable to handle whoever came out of his theorized secret room?

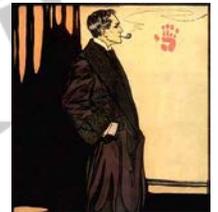
\*\*\*\*\*

### HELPING WATSON FILL IN THE DETAILS

After Holmes can't get Oldacre to speak, he says, "Well, well, I daresay that a couple of rabbits would account both for the blood and for the charred ashes. If ever you write an account, Watson, you can make rabbits serve your turn."

WHAT!?! Is Holmes suggesting that Watson fictionalizes portions of his accounts? Is all of Sherlockian scholarship threatened by this single statement? Or is this just one more jab at Watson's work?

\*\*\*\*\*



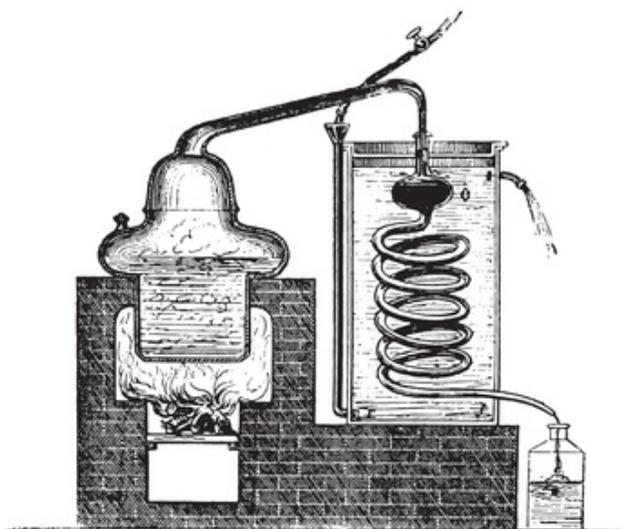
# A TRUE KNOCK-OUT

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In three stories in the canon, someone is incapacitated by chloroform. Lady France Carfax almost dies from breathing the fumes while hidden in a coffin, (1) Holmes captures German agent Von Bork with a sponge soaked in it, (2) and Mary Maberley is overcome with a rag held over her mouth. (3)

While ether and chloroform were both developed and introduced as anesthesia at about the same time, chloroform achieved greater popularity and was more widely used throughout the 1800s. (4)

In 1831, chloroform was developed almost simultaneously in the US by Samuel Guthrie, in France by Eugene Soubeiran, and in Germany by Justus von Liebig. Guthrie, however, published his findings first and is given credit for the process.



Seeking a cheap pesticide, he used a home-made distillation apparatus to create “chloric ether” from chloride of lime and whiskey.

Following its development, he freely shared the resulting pleasant-tasting spirit with his friends, which they imbibed a number of times over the next six months to determine its effects. He

considered it a stimulus, but did report to his daughter that she was the first to receive it to reduce her pain. (5)

He also sent samples to a number of physicians for additional experiments as to its uses.

Dr. Eli Ives reported using it for asthma in 1832, but its use as an anesthesia was not determined until 1847 when Dr. James Simpson and two other physicians opened one of Guthrie’s sample bottles and inhaled deeply.



When they came to the next morning, they announced they had found a substitute for sulphuric ether, introduced as an anesthetic only the year before. (6)

While ether had also served as an anesthetic, chloroform gained greater popularity because it was faster-acting and non-flammable. (7)

It was used extensively in the US during the Civil War and after Simpson used it on a patient during childbirth, it became popular enough for Queen Victoria to use it during the delivery of her eighth child, Prince Leopold, in 1853.

She inhaled the anesthetic from a handkerchief and declared afterwards, it was “delightful beyond measure,” and never had she recovered so quickly. (8)

Despite the royal seal of approval, the use of chloroform was not without risk or controversy. The first fatality related to chloroform occurred in

1848 when a fifteen-year-old girl died after being administered the drug.

It was not until 1911 that it was determined chloroform caused cardiac fibrillation. While fatal complications were estimated at 1 in 3000 to 6000 administrations (vs. 1 in 14,000 to 28,000 for ether), it was still the go-to anesthetic in the UK and German-speaking countries between 1865 to 1920, with 80-95% of all narcoses performed using the compound.

Chloroform's administration had always been problematic. Too much, and the patient died. Too little and the patient remained awake. (9)

Decline in the use of chloroform occurred in the 1930s as inhalation equipment improved and anesthetics such as nitrous oxide were introduced for safer, more effective narcosis.

By 1976, the end of chloroform's use was officially marked by its removal from medical texts. (10)

Current estimates suggest it can take as long as ten minutes for a person to succumb, (11) but popular Victorian press and fiction propagated the myth of the compound's instantaneous effects. (12)

As for overdoses, Dr. Watson noted the use of ether to assist in reviving Lady Carfax.

This was proposed by August Fabre [no known relationship to this author] in 1857, but could not be shown to be effective in a series of experiments and actually appeared to aggravate the symptoms. (13)

Regardless, the allure of the drug's true benefits and uses led to chloroform's pervasive appearance among the criminal element in Sherlockian tales.

---

(1) Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan* (Kindle Location 27245). Simon & Schuster UK.

(2) *Ibid*, location 27745

(3) *Ibid*, location 29248

(4) <http://www.history.com/topics/ether-and-chloroform>

(5) <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/sc/2011/05/20/samuel-guthrie-discoverer-of-chloroform/>

(6) A. G. Hart, "Chloroform Discovered by Dr. Samuel Guthrie, an American Physician," *St. Louis Clinique: A Monthly Journal of Clinical Medicine and Surgery*, Volume 19, pages 132-135.

(7) <http://www.history.com/topics/ether-and-chloroform>

(8) <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1e2ce5d6-aad3-11dd-897c-000077b07658.html>

(9) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Young\\_Simpson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Young_Simpson)

(10) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9487785>

(11) <http://mentalfloss.com/article/56607/10-tv-and-movie-cliches-you-never-see-real-life>

(12) Stephanie Snow, *Blessed Days of Anaesthesia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

(13) W.W. Morland and Francis Minot (eds.) *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Volume LV. Boston: David Clapp Publisher, 1857, page 86.

---

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com). A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

---

# 56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - THE ADVENTURE OF THE NORWOOD BUILDER

Posted on October 13, 2011 by barefootnbakerstreet

Doyle himself lived at Norwood for four years, writes Charlotte Anne Walters

During this time, Doyle completed the compilation of stories which make up The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and made the decision to 'kill off' his most famous creation.

London historian and Holmesian scholar Alistair Duncan wrote an excellent book on this period of Doyle's life called *The Norwood Author* which won the Howlett Literary Award this year.

It's worth a read, as is his excellent blog which can be found by following this link <http://alistaird221b.blogspot.com/>

Back to the original story and the fascinating details it reveals the relationship between Holmes and Watson after the detective returns 'from the dead' and is back with his old friend.

At Holmes' request, Watson sells his practice to a mysterious doctor Verner and returns to live in his old rooms at Baker Street.

As if this isn't quite extraordinary enough, we then learn Verner is a relative of Holmes and paid a generous amount for the practice because it was actually Holmes who put up the money himself.

Gosh, for a man that is supposed to be without emotion, this is a very clear statement of deep emotional attachment towards his friend and how much he needs him.

But there are alternate views to be considered – could it have been guilt that prompted such generosity? Did Holmes feel guilty about leaving Watson to mourn him for three years, putting him through all that grief and not being there to support him when his wife died?

And what about all the money Watson has lost over the years due to neglecting his business and chasing off after Holmes?

That trip to Switzerland must have been very expensive, not to mention earlier examples such as rushing from London to Lyon in twenty-four hours to be at Holmes' bedside when he fell ill there.

Was this money his compensation? A thank you and a sorry which Holmes couldn't find the words to say in the conventional way? Or was it simply an act of love?

As to the rest of the story, it returns us to the tried and tested formula of an innocent man being arrested and the evidence stacking up against him, with Holmes trying to prove his innocence much to the amazement of Inspector Lestrade who teases him as every fresh piece of evidence comes to light in the apparent favour of the Inspector's case.

Unusually, Holmes works on intuition at the start of the investigation. I say unusual because what tends to differentiate between Holmes and other detectives is his method, the reasoned observation which he uses to form his opinion, but in this case it

is the other way around and he looks for evidence to fit his theory.

A young lawyer is accused of murdering a builder who had once been a suitor of his mother's until she threw him over in favour of another.

Mr Jonas Oldacre turns up at the young man's office and asks him to draw up his will, in which the lawyer will be his heir.

When Mr Oldacre is believed to have been murdered and his body burned in a fire the night the lawyer visits him to conclude their business, there is only one suspect.

Holmes very cleverly discovers that the builder faked his death and is still hiding in the house – in a den of his own construction.

To take a little revenge on Lestrade who had teased him so much for being supposedly on the wrong track, Holmes dramatically gets the builder to run out from his hiding place after a cry of "Fire" is given by Holmes, Watson, Lestrade and the sceptical policemen. Lestrade is suitably humbled and an innocent man saved.

Brilliant, what a great story full of humour, friendship, intrigue and deduction. 9 out of 10.



# AN INQUIRY INTO "THE ADVENTURE OF THE NORWOOD BUILDER"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" was first published in **The Strand Magazine** in November 1903.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in **The Annotated Sherlock Holmes**, Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on Tuesday, August 20, to Wednesday, August 1895. At the time Holmes is 41 years old and Watson 43.

## Notable Quotes:

"I much fear that British juries have not yet attained that pitch of intelligence when they will give the preference to my theories over Lestrade's facts."

## Watson's Living

At the beginning of the story, the Good Doctor informs us that at Holmes' request, he sold his practice (leaving the medical profession) and went back to live with the Great Detective at Baker Street.

It is difficult to factor exactly how much the "princely sum" Holmes arranged to be paid for Watson's practice amounted to. In any case, although Holmes was by then a recognized expert, it seems doubtful he could have managed a sum that made his friend independent. While it is true that Watson could have

supported himself (as one of the Hounds so rightly pointed out) with his writing, Holmes had forbidden him to publish further. So, I wonder was the "princely sum" added to his military pension sufficient to make him a gentleman of leisure?

## Lestrade, Sit in the Corner Until You Learn!

What is the matter with our dim inspector? By his own (and probably painful from experience) admission he concedes that Holmes has "been of use to the Force once or twice in the past, and we owe you a good turn at Scotland Yard."

One would think, having seen Holmes work on more than one occasion, the Scotland Yarder would have known enough to stay behind after McFarlane is taken away; however, all it occurs him to do is once again scoff at Holmes when he begins "to get on [his] theories." Even had he been convinced (as it seems) he was holding the guilty party, why not indulge the Great Detective, if for no other reason than to see him fall on his face? Giles, my dear fellow, you are an idiot.

## The Happy Cat

Granted that stuffing a cat into an aviary does not say much for Oldacre's love of animals (unless he was a cat person), but it isn't the same as if he regularly went to the East End to off prostitutes.

Granted that it was a stupid, senseless action; however, was it by itself sufficient to turn the would-be Mrs. McFarlane away? One can safely assume, in her case, that if she was contemplating marriage she must have loved Oldacre, and might have been a bit more forgiving. One must remember that Victorians did not look upon animals in the more humane way we do today--they were close to the If she loved him enough to have considered marriage would she not have been a little more forgiving?

Lest we forget that animals then were not considered in the more humane way in which we look upon them today... they were much closer to the butcher than we are nowadays.

## The Shamefully Defaced and Mutilated Picture

It has always puzzled me why Mrs. McFarlane would have kept for that many years the photograph that Oldacre so "shamefully defaced and mutilated with a knife"? Since

she did not use it to convince the police back then, why would she keep it? It was completely useless as evidence after all this time, especially since she could not prove that Oldacre was the one who actually mutilated as a threat, particularly since all contact between them had ceased years before.

### **The Remains**

Exactly what were the "organic remains" identified as being Oldacre's, found by the police in the ashes of the fire? Even late 19th century coroners could have differentiated between human and animal remains.

### **What else happened in 1895:**

#### **EMPIRE**

- Freetown, Sierra Leone, granted municipal status and privileges.
- Anglo-French interests begin to conflict in Nile Valley.
- U.S. intervenes in Anglo-Venezuelan border dispute, arbitration in Britain's favor.
- Construction of Uganda railway commenced.
- British East Africa Company surrenders Kenya as British protectorate.
- Jameson Raid.

#### **BRITAIN**

- Liberals defeated at general election, Salisbury again becomes prime minister.
- Compulsory retirement of aged Duke of Cambridge as C-in-C of British Army.
- London School of Economics and Political Science founded.
- First automobile exhibition in London.
- Electrification of first mainline railway.

#### **WORLD**

- Japan takes Formosa.
- Germany, France, and Russia unite to compel Japan to return Liaotung peninsula to China.
- Treaty of Simonoseki, end of Sino-Japanese war.
- Cuban rebellions begin, U.S. protests brutal suppression.
- Dreyfus refused new trial by French President Faure.
- National League founded in Poland; aimed at autonomy under Russia's suzerainty.
- Nyssens Law extended to Belgian provinces and communes.
- Armenian demonstration in Constantinople leads to massacre of 50,000 Armenians.

- Frontiers of Pamirs fixed by commission of Russians, Afghans, and British.
- Introduction of diphtheria antitoxin.
- Completion of Kiel Canal (61 miles) makes Germany North Sea power.

#### **ART**

- Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuts. Later that year, Wilde is imprisoned.
- Corelli publishes *The Sorrows of Satan*.
- H.G. Wells publishes *The Time Machine*.

#### **SCIENCE**

- Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen, German physicist, experiments with Crooke's tubes and discovers X-rays.
- Ramsey obtains helium, first identified by its spectrum in the sun, in 1868.
- On December 28th, in the Hotel Scribe, in Paris, the first public cinema show takes place.
- Thomas Armat, of Washington, develops modern cinema projection.
- King Gillette (U.S.) invents safety razor.
- Wireless telegraphy is demonstrated.

# STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE NORWOOD BUILDER"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>



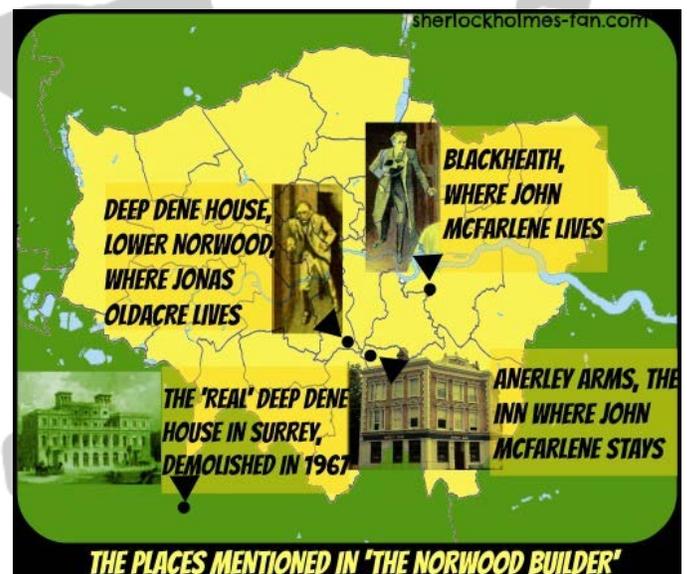
- **Client:** The visitor was a new client, John Hector McFarlane, a young solicitor (lawyer). He was flaxen-haired and handsome, in a washed-out negative fashion, with frightened blue eyes, a clean-shaven face, and a weak, sensitive mouth. His age was about twenty-seven; his dress and bearing were that of a gentleman.
  - **Crime or concern:** Client was accused of killing the well-known Norwood Builder James Oldacre. Oldacre had been an acquaintance of McFarlane's family, had no heirs, and hired McFarlane to prepare his will. To McFarlane's surprise, he was not just hired to prepare the will, but he was the main beneficiary. Then he went to his client's house to go over some papers that night and stayed in a hotel, returning to town the next morning. Oldacre had disappeared overnight, and his stacks in the timber-yard had burned. Some charred organic remains were found in the ashes, plus buttons from Oldacre's clothing. Lestrade came to 221B and arrested the client for murder after Holmes heard his story.
  - **Villain:** Oldacre, the presumed victim. He was a little wizened ferret-like man, with white eyelashes, and had keen gray eyes. Turned out he was not really dead but hiding in a secret room he had built in his house. He had been putting a large amount of money into the account of Mr. Cornelius, who was actually Oldacre himself using an alias.
  - **Motive:** Financial speculation had gone against Oldacre, so he tried to swindle his creditors by faking his death, and then planned to move and start life again as Mr. Cornelius.
- **First published in:** Collier's, October 31, 1903; Strand Magazine, November 1903.
  - **Time frame of story:** Midsummer 1894
  - **H&W living arrangements:** Watson no longer married, probably a widower. (He mentioned his sad bereavement in "The Empty House" a few months previously, probably his wife's death.) He sold his practice and moved back to 221B with Holmes, at Holmes' request.
  - **Opening scene:** During breakfast conversation, Holmes laments since Moriarty's death London had become a singularly uninteresting city for the criminal expert, although he concedes the community is certainly the gainer, and no one the loser, save the poor out-of-work specialist in crime. A visitor then rushed unceremoniously in to see Holmes.

- **Logic used to solve:** Oldacre overdid it with a false bloody thumbprint of McFarlane made from a wax seal, placed on the wall overnight. Holmes had already inspected the area and knew the print appeared after the client was already in gaol. He then suspected Oldacre and paced off some dimensions in the house and determined the location of the hiding place. Holmes then smoked him out.
- **Policemen:** Inspector Lestrade was there, and also his head constable, plus two others, all with strong voices.
- **Holmes' fees:** No mention.
- **Transport:** Oldacre wrote his will on the train from Norwood to London, as evidenced by varied writing neatness. Neat in stations, messy while he was in motion, and illegible while passing over points (switches).
- **Food:** No mention of what H&W ate for breakfast.
- **Drink, Vices:** No mention
- **Other cases mentioned:** The case of the papers of ex-President Murillo, and also the shocking affair of the Dutch steamship Friesland, which so nearly cost H&W their lives.  
The terrible murderer, Bert Stevens in '87, a mild-mannered, Sunday-school man.
- **Notable Quotables:** "It amused me to make him reveal himself. Besides, I owed you a little mystification, Lestrade, for your chaff in the morning." – SH  
"You will find that your reputation has been enormously enhanced. Just make a few alterations in that report which you were

writing, and they will understand how hard it is to throw dust in the eyes of Inspector Lestrade." – SH, allowing Lestrade to take credit for solving the case.

"I pay a good deal of attention to matters of detail, as you may have observed." – SH

- **Other interesting:** A young doctor, named Verner, had purchased Watson's small Kensington practice, and gave with astonishingly little demur the highest price that Watson ventured to ask. The incident explained itself some years later, when it was learned that Verner was a distant relation of Holmes, and that it was Holmes who had really found the money.
- **When all was said and done:** Holmes to Oldacre: "What was it you put into the wood-pile besides your old trousers? A dead dog, or rabbits, or what? You won't tell? Dear me, how very unkind of you! Well, well, I daresay that a couple of rabbits would account both for the blood and for the charred ashes. If ever you write an account, Watson, you can make rabbits serve your turn."



# A DEEPER BLUE

Rosemary Michaud, *The Holmes & Watson Report*, January, 1998

I have always felt sorry for James Ryder, that wretched little "shrimp" who got himself tangled in the net of the greatest detective who ever lived. The foolish, first-time criminal never had a chance against Holmes, who had already recovered the Blue Carbuncle and traced the goose that Ryder had sought in vain.

Holmes knew Ryder's real name, where he worked, and the name of his confederate in crime. No, poor Ryder never had a chance. Or at least that's the way it looked at the end of the story of "The Blue Carbuncle." But a moment's reflection reveals the truth of the matter: if James Ryder had been able to tell one goose from another, Holmes might never have caught him.

Would Holmes have solved the crime if the Blue Carbuncle had not practically fallen into his lap? You may argue, as I did myself when this idea first struck me, that even Sherlock Holmes probably did not make a habit of solving cases in which he was not personally involved. He had followed the case in the newspapers, of course, but that was hardly the same thing as being called in to conduct an active investigation.

However, there is a certain amount of evidence that Holmes actually had been called in. He was obviously familiar with the case and the history of the stone itself, and there is something just a little fishy in the show that he made of rummaging through his old newspapers to read aloud the details of the crime for the benefit of Watson and Peterson.

Notice also once Peterson left the room, Holmes did not need to refer to the papers in order to rattle off the entire history of the jewel's crime-ridden past. He could let down his guard in front of the faithful Watson.

But the most conclusive evidence of Holmes's involvement in the case is the little slip he made when discussing the reward offered for the jewel's return.

"I have reason to know that there are sentimental considerations in the background which would induce the Countess to part with half her fortune if she could but recover the gem. That was not part of any newspaper account. I think that his reason to know was that the Countess herself had said so when she hired him to find her stolen property.

It would have been sensible to consult a private detective in such a situation. The police had already done their job when they arrested John Homer, and though they certainly would have liked to return the

stone to the Countess, their interest in the case must have been greatly reduced once they had a culprit in custody.

Alas, up to the moment when Mrs. Peterson began to cook her goose dinner, even Holmes had not succeeded in retrieving the Blue Carbuncle.

It is not my intention to criticize or ridicule Sherlock Holmes for his failure. Even had Ryder been able to dispose of the Jewel as he intended, it would have been an extremely difficult task for anyone to trace its path.

As it turned out, the random nature of the Blue Carbuncle's hiding place made it virtually impossible to find, even for the man who had hidden it.

And though he may have been frustrated in the case, Holmes had not been idle. He had familiarized himself with all the actors in the drama -- Ryder, Cusack, Homer -- and I believe that he already had his suspicions that this case was something more than an impulse crime committed by an opportunistic thief.

When Holmes got his lucky break in locating the stone, he wasted little time filling in the rest of the story and saving an innocent man from a long prison sentence.

While he was at it, Holmes also saved the not-so-innocent James Ryder from a similar fate. Was Holmes equally lenient towards Catherine Cusack, the Countess of Morcar's maid?

He may have had to be, once he let Ryder go. Without Ryder's testimony in court, any charges against Cusack would have had no foundation.

By that point, of course, Holmes was beginning to realize that James Ryder was incapable of planning and carrying out such a crime on his own. And if Ryder was too dull-witted and nervous for the job, then Cusack was the next logical choice as the brains of the operation.

Watson did not tell us anything more about the maid, and I wonder if the silence was deliberate. If so, a clue to the reason for his silence may lie in the word "shrimp." Sherlock Holmes had a decided weakness for animal imagery.

Captain Croker (ABBE) was "strong as a lion" and "active as a squirrel," while Peter Jones (REDH) was as brave as a bulldog and as tenacious as a lobster," and so on. But at the mention of "shrimp" the reference that suggests itself is this marine-life metaphor from *The*

**Valley of Fear:** "Picture to yourself the pilot fish with the shark."

Shrimp, pilot fish, shark. Were these the shapes that Holmes was beginning to perceive through the murky currents of the criminal underworld? The Blue Carbuncle case probably took place in 1889, though there are a few scholars who argue for 1890.

If the case took place in 1890, this places it at the beginning of Holmes's intense pursuit of his nemesis. If the case took place in the earlier year, Holmes may not have been quite certain what it was that he saw, but even at that time he must have had some idea of the presence of that great predatory shark whom he would later identify as Professor Moriarty.

Let us suppose that at the very least, Holmes was not satisfied with either Ryder or Cusack as the intelligence behind the theft of the Blue Carbuncle. He would, of course, think of Maudsley, Ryder's friend who had served hard time in Pentonville prison.

In his account of events, Ryder stated that he consulted Maudsley only after the crime had been committed, and I think he was telling the truth. However, I don't think this was Maudsley's only connection to the crime, and I don't think Holmes thought so either.

Consider this scenario: During his time in prison, Maudsley was befriended by another inmate and recruited to become part of Moriarty's criminal organization. I have always believed that one of Moriarty's innovations in the field of crime was his information file, which would have been something akin to the files that modern corporations use to generate mailing or telemarketing lists.

Every new recruit to Moriarty's gang was probably required to list the names, addresses, and occupations of his friends and acquaintances. Anyone on the list having special talents, useful occupations or possible criminal leanings might find themselves approached with recruitment in mind.

Those on the list having large amounts of money or valuable possessions would find themselves the victims of crime. I wonder if Moriarty, the math whiz, was able to sort and merge his list on some sort of tabulating machine of his own design, the forerunner of a modern computer database.

But however he managed it, Moriarty brought the names Ryder, Cusack, and Horner together in a plot to

steal the Countess of Morcar's precious stone. And I wonder if Moriarty's plan was not to sell the Blue Carbuncle, but rather to "induce the Countess to part with half her fortune if she could but recover the gem."

Ryder was probably unaware that there was any such driving force behind the crime. Cusack tempted him by describing how easy it would be to take the jewel and fix the blame on Homer.

And of course Ryder went to Maudsley to fence the stolen goods, as Maudsley (and Moriarty) knew he would. Where else would Ryder go? He probably didn't know any other criminals; he knew Maudsley only because they had been friends before Maudsley "went to the bad." For Ryder's sake, I certainly hope that he knew nothing more than that.

From Moriarty's point of view, I believe that the serious threat came from John Horner. I wonder whether Horner had once been a Moriarty recruit, one who had incurred the Professor's wrath by spuming the criminal life for an honest plumber's trade.

It would have attracted too much undue attention for the gang to murder Horner, but Moriarty might have meant to make an example of him by framing him for the theft of the Blue Carbuncle. If so, Sherlock Holmes spoiled the plan.

Was this, perhaps, the "little, little trip" which enabled Holmes to eventually defeat Moriarty? Was John Horner so grateful to Sherlock Holmes that he told the detective all he knew about the Professor's criminal organization?

If he did nothing else, Horner probably provided Holmes with valuable lessons on how to disguise himself as a plumber, a ploy Holmes found useful in his later work. See the December, 1996, issue of *The Baker Street Journal* for Cathy Gill's delightful theory that Holmes may have used his plumber's disguise against Moriarty himself.

It is all mere conjecture, of course; in the absence of solid evidence, we can never know for sure whether Moriarty had anything to do with the theft of the Blue Carbuncle, or even whether Sherlock Holmes thought that he did. But if true it would be another reason, beyond the spirit of Christmas, why Holmes let Ryder and Cusack go unpunished.

What did Holmes want with the small fry? He was after a shark!

# Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Fay,  
Rusty & Steve Mason



If you are one of our “younger” readers, after the reading this strip, google... “He-Man Woman Hater’s Club...”

<p><i>Baker Street Elementary</i> Number 077 - 10/09/2016</p> <p><i>Fay, Mason, &amp; Mason</i></p> <p>I HEAR LESTRADE AND GREGGSON HAVE FORMED A CLUB...THEY ONLY ALLOW MONITORS TO BELONG.</p> <p>YES, "CLUBLAND" IN THE PALL MALL AREA IS THRIVING, WITH OVER 200 CLUBS OF VARIOUS THEMES. I SUGGEST WE FOUND OUR OWN SUCH THEMED-ESTABLISHMENT.</p>	<p>WHAT WOULD BE THE MONIKER OF SUCH A CLUB FOR US?</p> <p>I WOULD SUBMIT "THE HE-MAN WOMAN HATER'S CLUB..."</p>	<p>AS WE ALL KNOW, GIRLS ARE NEVER TO BE ENTIRELY TRUSTED --- NOT THE BEST OF THEM.</p> <p>...but I like girls...</p>
<p>MAYBE AN ARCHERY CLUB.</p> <p>MY MOTHER WOULD NOT ALLOW ME AROUND SHARP OBJECTS. NO THANKS.</p>	<p>SO YOUNGUN', WHAT TYPE OF CLUB WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE CREATE?</p> <p>MY ELDEST BROTHER, SEBASTIAN, ENJOYS A GOOD GAME OF 'WHIST'... YOU SHOULD CREATE A CARD-PLAYING CLUB.</p>	<p>THE CLUB SHALL BE ESTABLISHED ON THE PREMISE THAT AN AVERSION TO GIRLS IS THE ONLY METHOD TO ENSURE OUR BRAIN GOVERNS OUR HEART, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.</p> <p>...but I like girls... one even kissed me...</p>

Continued on next page

*SOUNDS LIKE  
DETENTION.*



*NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,  
IT DOES SOUND LIKE THAT...*

*WHO WOULD  
WILLINGLY DO  
SUCH A THING?*



*GIRLS' HEARTS AND MINDS ARE INSOLUBLE  
PUZZLES TO THE MALE... MY CLUB WOULD  
ALLOW US TO SOLVE THOSE PUZZLES.*

*... but I really like girls...*



*I VOTE FOR A GIRL'S  
APPRECIATION CLUB...*

*YOU KNOW,  
I DO TOO...*



*OH, FORGET IT... I'LL FORM A BEE-KEEPING  
OR BARITSU APPRECIATION CLUB...*

*AGAIN... I AM  
NOT ALLOWED  
TO BE AROUND  
SHARP OBJECTS...*

*WHO'S BARITSU...*

